

June 2026

CURRICULUM VITAE

Shin-yi Chao, PhD

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RESEARCH INTEREST

Chinese socio-religious history, popular religion, Daoism, women and religion in Chinese history

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Asian Studies, The University of British Columbia, 2004

Dissertation: “Zhenwu: The Cult of a Chinese Warrior Deity from the Song to the Ming Dynasties (960-1644)”

Thesis committee: Drs. Daniel L. Overmyer (advisor), Nam-lin Hur, and Alexander Woodside

M. A., History, University of California, Los Angeles, 1994

Thesis: “Daoist Examinations and Daoist Schools during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127)”

M. A. History, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan), 1991

Thesis: “Food Culture of the Chu Aristocracy during the Warring-State Period (480-222 BC)” (in Chinese)

B. A. Chinese Literature, Fu Jen Catholic University (Taiwan), 1988

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Chinese (native; classical and modern), Japanese (reading), French (reading)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Department of Religion and Classics, University of Rochester

Associate Professor, 2013 – present

Department of Philosophy and Religion, Rutgers University _Camden campus

Associate Professor, 2011 – 2013

Assistant Professor, 2005 – 2011

Center for General Education, Tajen Institute of Technology, Taiwan / ROC

Assistant Professor, 2004 – 2005

Religious Studies Program, Washington University

Visiting Lecturer, 2003 – 2004

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIP & GRANTS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2026 | Scholar Grant. Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (\$35,000) |
| 2020 | Fulbright US Scholar. Senior Scholar (carried out during May-December, 2021) |
| 2019 | Center for Chinese Studies, Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies (200,000 NTD, appx. 6,500 USD) |

- 2018 Humanities Center at University of Rochester, conference grant (\$22,000; for holding an international symposium “Text, Context, and Act: Chinese popular religion in practice”)
- 2017 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, Research Grant (\$22,000; project title: “Religion and Social Capital: Local Elites and Civil Society in Taiwan”)
- 2016 Central New York Corridor Humanities Grant: working group LLC2 The Chinese Quest for Modernity.
- 2015 Central New York Corridor Humanities Grant: working group LLC2 The Chinese Quest for Modernity.
- 2013 American Research in the Humanities in China fellowship (an NEH grant administrated by ACLS; \$34,000, awarded in July 2012, starting in July 2013, ending in Dec. 2013)
- 2012 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Scholar Grant (\$ 25,000, grant period: July 2012 – June 2013)
- 2012 Confucius Institute at Rutgers University conference grant for organizing an international symposium, “Religion and Society in North China” in May 2103 (\$10,000)
- 2012 ACLS/CCKF grant of Comparative Perspectives on Chinese Culture and Society for organizing a planning meeting for a conference (\$6,000)
- 2012 Residential Research Fellowship, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley (Spring term, \$10,000)
- 2011 Rutgers University Research Council Grant (\$3,000)
- 2011 The China and Inner Asia Council of the Association of Asian Studies Small Grant (\$2,000)
- 2011 American Academy of Religion, research award (\$5,000)
- 2010 Co-recipient of Confucius Institute at Rutgers Univ. conference grant for organizing an international symposium, “Divinity and Society: The Cult of Zhenwu in Imperial and Modern China.” (\$15,000)
- 2010 Rutgers University Research Council Grant (\$1,800)
- 2010 Confucius Institute at Rutgers University Research Grant (\$3,000)
- 2009 Rutgers University Research Council Grant (\$3,000)
- 2007 Rutgers University Research Council Grant (\$2,500)
- 2007 Co-recipient of the grant for organizing “Temples in Rural China” workshop from ACLS (\$5,550)
- 2006 Rutgers University Research Council Grant (\$2,500)
- 2005 Research Association and Visiting Lecturer at Woman’s Studies in Religion Program, Divinity School, Harvard University (*Declined*)
- 2002 Faculty of Arts Instructional Support and Information Technology Fund (1,500 Canadian dollars)
- 2002 The China and Inner Asia Council of the AAS Small Grants (\$1,500)
- 2000 Faculty of Arts Instructional Support and Information Technology Fund (1,500 Canadian dollars)
- 2000 Second place, John and Mae Esterline Prize for graduate student papers, ASPAC, Eugene, OR.
- 1999 China Times Young Scholars Award (\$10,000)
- 1998 Chiang Ching-kuo Dissertation Fellowships for R.O.C. Students Abroad (\$15,000)

PUBLICATIONS

Book authored

- 2011 *Daoist Ritual, State Religion and Popular Practices: Zhenwu Worship from Song to Ming (960-1644)*. London & New York: Routledge

Book edited

- 2023 *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press). 260 pages.
*** Seven essays in this volume are translated by me with two student assistants.
- 2002 *Ethnography in China Today: A Critical Assessment of Methods and Results* (Taipei: Yuan-liou Publishing Co., Ltd.). Assistant to the editor, Daniel L. Overmyer.

Journal special issues edited

- 2023 Co-editor of *Special Issue on "Popular Beliefs, Religious Texts, and Local Communities in the Sinophone World: In Memory of Professor Daniel L. Overmyer"*— Parts I & II. *Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore* (*Min-su ch'ü-i* 民俗曲藝), nos. 221-222 (Sep. & Dec.). Co-edited with Wang Chien-chuan.

Refereed articles

- 2023 "Text, Acts, and Traditionalization: Performing Chinese Popular Religion," introduction to *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* ed. by Shin-yi Chao, 11-40. Amsterdam: AUP.
- 2023 "Building Temples and Making Pilgrimages: The Cult of a Daoist Immortal in Village," in *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* ed. by Shin-yi Chao, 211-234. Amsterdam: AUP.
- 2022 "Seekers and Seers: Lay Buddhists and Buddhist Revival in Rural China." *Review of Society and Chinese Religion* 9.1: 222-248.
- 2014 "Sheqin yu cunmiao: Zixu yuanjun xinyang zai huabei 社亲与村庙: 紫虚元君信仰在华北 (Village Alliance and Village Temple: The Worship of the Primordial Lord of the Purple Void in North China)." *Northwest Journal of Ethnology* (*Xibei minzu yanjiu*), 2014.1: 28-34. (*NJE* is a peer-review Chinese journal established in 1986 based at the Northwest University for Nationalities, Lanzhou, Gansu province, China.) In Chinese.
- 2010 "Forming Women's Genealogy: Daoist Monastic Women in Mongolian China." *Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore* (*Min-su chü-i*), 168: 157-90 (*JCRTF* is a double-blind peer-review bilingual international journal starting in 1980 based in Taiwan.
** This article is selected to be included in Russell Kirkland ed., *Taoism* (London & New York: Routledge), 2015.
- 2009 "Summoning the Thunder Generals: Internal Alchemy in Thunder Rites." In Livia Kohn and Robin Wong eds., *Daoist Inner Alchemy* (Magdalena, NM: Three Pines Press), 108-124.
** This article is selected to be included in Russell Kirkland ed., *Taoism* (London & New York: Routledge), 2015.
- 2009 "The *Precious Volume of Zhenwu Bodhisattva Attaining the Way*: A Case Study of the Worship of Zhenwu (Perfected Warrior) in Ming-Qing Sectarian Groups." In Philip Clart and Paul Crowe eds., *The People and the Dao: New Studies of Chinese Popular Religion in Honour of Prof. Daniel L. Overmyer* (Sankt Augustin: Institut Monumenta Serica), 63-82. The article was individually reviewed through a double-blind process.
- 2008 "Good Career Moves: Life Stories of Daoist Nuns of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries." Daoist Abbesses in North China during the Jin and Yuan Dynasties (1115-1341)." *Nan Nü: Men, Women and Gender in China* 10: 121-151.
- 2006 "Huizong and the Divine Empyrean Temple (Shenxiao gong) Network." In Patricia Ebrey and Maggie Bickford eds., *Emperor Huizong and Late Northern Song China: The Politics of Culture and the Culture of Politics* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press), 324-358.
- 2003 "Daoist Examinations and Daoist Schools during the Northern Song Dynasty." *Journal of Chinese Religions* 31: 1 – 37.
- 2002 "A *Danggi* Temple in Taipei: Spirit-Mediums in Modern Urban Taiwan." *Asia Major*, third series, 15.2: 129-157.

** This article is selected to be included in Vincent Goossaert ed., *Critical Readings on Chinese Religions* (Leiden & Boston: Brill), 2013.

Non-referred articles

- 2023a **Co-author** “Introduction” to *Special Issue on “Popular Beliefs, Religious Texts, and Local Communities in the Sinophone World: In Memory of Professor Daniel L. Overmyer”* Parts I. *Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore* (Min-su ch’ü-i 民俗曲藝), no. 221 (Sep): 1-29, co-authored with Wang Chien-chuan.
- 2023b **Co-author** “Introduction” to *Special Issue on “Popular Beliefs, Religious Texts, and Local Communities in the Sinophone World: In Memory of Professor Daniel L. Overmyer”* Parts I. *Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore* (Min-su ch’ü-i 民俗曲藝), no. 222 (Dec): 1-18, co-authored with Wang Chien-chuan.
- 2020 “Spirit-writing and the Zhenwu Cult: Based on *The Divine Admonishment from [Zhenwu of] Wudang* 扶鸞與真武信仰：從《武當垂訓》出發。” In FAN Chun-wu ed., *Proceedings of International Conference on Spirit-writing Culture and Popular Religion* 扶鸞文化與民衆宗教國際學術研討會論文集 (Taipei, Boyang wenhua): 33-52. In Chinese.
- 2018 “The worship of Wei Huacun in Village Religion in Northwestern Henan” (Yu xibei minjian de Wei Huacun Xinyang 豫西北民間魏華存信仰) *Journal of Taoist Studies* 2: 256-273. In Chinese.
- 2018 “Zhenwu Worship and Sectarianism Seen Through Two Precious Volumes of Zhenwu” (Cong liangbu Zhenwu baojuan kan Zhenwu xinyang yu minjian jiaopai zhi guanxi 從兩部真武寶卷看真武信仰與民間教派之關係). In HOU Chong ed., *Scripture, Ritual, and Popular Religion (Jingdian, yishi, yu minjian zongjiao* 經典，儀式與宗教), Shanghai: Shangwu yinshuguan, 21-134. In Chinese.
- 2012 “Chinese Religion in the Song and Alien Dynasties.” In Randall Nadeau ed., *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Chinese Religions* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing Lit.), 99-124.
- 2010 “Daojiao yu minjian zongjiao yanjiu (Daoism and Popular Religion—State of Field).” In Haihui Zhang et al eds., *Beimei Zhongguo Xueshu Yanjiu – Xueshu gaishu yu wenxian ziyuan* (Chinese Studies in North America – Research and Resources (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju.), 3-19. In Chinese.

Book reviews

- In press *The Fear of Witchcraft and Witches in Imperial China: Figurines, Familiars and Demons* by Barend J. ter Haar (Leiden: Brill, 2025). *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.
- 2020 *Handbook of Religion in China* edited by Stephan Feuchtwang (Edward Elgar, 2020). *Journal of Chinese Religions*, vol. 48, no. 2 (Nov.): 290-293.
- 2019 *The Taoism of Clarified Tenuity* by Florian C. Reiter (Harrassowitz Verlag, 2017). *Monumenta Serica*, vol. 67, issue 1 (June): 258-261.
- 2018 *Guan Yu: The Religious Afterlife of a Failed Hero* by Barend J. ter Haar (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2017). *Bulletin of SOAS* 81.2 (October): 363-365.
- 2014 *Taoism* edited by Zhongjian Mou, translated by Junliang Pan and Simone Normand (Leiden: Brill, 2009). *Journal of Chinese Religions* 42.2: 237-240.
- 2010 *Women’s Ritual in China: Jiezhu (Receiving Buddhist Prayer Beads) Performed by Menopausal Women in Ninghua, Western Fujian* by Neky Tak-Ching Cheung (Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2008). *Journal of Chinese Religions* 38: 83-85.
- 2007 *The Taoists of Peking, 1800-1949: A History of Urban Clerics* by Vincent Goossaert (Cambridge, Mass. & London: Harvard University Asia Center, 2007). *Journal of Chinese Religions* 35: 149-151.
- 2005 *Identity Reflections: Pilgrimages to Mount Tai in Late Imperial China* by Brian Dott (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, 2004). *Journal of Asian Studies* 64.4: 999-1001.
- 2004 *Dianfan de zhuixun: Taiwan bentu zongjiao yanjiu de xin shiye yu xin siwei* 典範的追尋：臺灣本土宗教研究的新視野與新思維 [Searching for the paradigm: New perspectives on Taiwan religious

studies], edited by Hsün Chang and Tsann-terng Jiang (Taipei: SMC, 2002). *Journal of Chinese Religions*, no. 32: 193-196.

- 2003 *Dangdai Taiwan bentu zongjiao yanjiu daolun* 當代台灣本土宗教研究導論 [Reader in Contemporary Religious Studies in Taiwan], edited by Hsün Chang and Tsann-terng Jiang (Taipei: SMC, 2002). *Journal of Chinese Religions*, no. 31: 219-222.

- 2001 *Power of the Wheel: The Falun Gong Revolution* by Ian Adams et al. *Pacific Affairs*, vol. 74.4 (Winter 2001): 591-592.

Translations

- 2023 “Confluence of Fears: The 1923 Doomsday Hysteria in China” by FAN Chun-wu, in *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* edited by Shin-yi Chao (Amsterdam: Amsterdam UP), 43-61.
- 2023 “Shuilu Rites and the Baodingshan Rock Carvings, Dazu” by HOU Chong, in *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* edited by Shin-yi Chao (Amsterdam: Amsterdam UP), 89-103
- 2023 “The Worship of the Ten Kings of Purgatory during the Ming-Qing Period” by WANG Chien-chuan, in *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* edited by Shin-yi Chao (Amsterdam: Amsterdam UP), 105-123.
- 2023 “Feasting with the Great Grandma: The Tea Banquet Ritual Programs and the Worship of the Mother of the Wutong Gods” by CHEN Yongchao, in *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* edited by Shin-yi Chao (Amsterdam: Amsterdam UP), 125-147.
- 2023 “Knowledge and Ritual: The Dual Nature of the Scripture Illustrating the Holiness of Emperor Guan (Guandi mingsheng jing)” by LI Shih-wei, in *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* edited by Shin-yi Chao (Amsterdam: Amsterdam UP), 149-167.
- 2023 “Assimilation by Names: A Mechanism of Pantheon Development in Local Religion” by WANG Yao, in *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* edited by Shin-yi Chao (Amsterdam: Amsterdam UP), 189-208.
- 2023 “Stone Inscriptions on Mt. Tai and Contemporary Folk Pilgrimage: A Speculation on “Lefu Yinbei”” by YE Tao, in *Chinese Popular Religion in Text and Acts* edited by Shin-yi Chao (Amsterdam: Amsterdam UP), 235-247.
- 2004 “Daojiao yu difang xinyang – yi Wen yuanshuai weili 道教與地方信仰－以溫元帥為例.” *Minjian zongjiao* 民間宗教 [Popular Religion], no. 3: 1-31. (Chinese translation of Paul Katz’s “Daoism and Local Cults -- A Case Study of the Cult of Marshal Wen,” in Kwang-ching Liu and Richard Shek, eds. *Heterodoxy in Late Imperial China*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press), 172 – 208.
- 1997 “Qingmo Fuzhou Wudi xinyang ji qi zhuyi huodong 清末福州五帝信仰及其逐疫活動.” *Minjian zongjiao* 民間宗教 [Popular Religion], no. 3: 385-396. (Chinese translation of excerpts from Justin Doolittle’s *Social Life of the Chinese: Account of Their Religious, Governmental, and Business Customs and Options, with Special but not Exclusive Reference to Fuhchau*. NY: Harper & Brothers, 1865), 157–167.

WORK IN PROCESS

- (Book) Daoist Immortal, Vernacular Goddess: The Making of Wei Huacun (251-334) Worship in Local Religion
- (Book) Urban temple cults in modern Taiwan
- (Articles) Scripture-chanting groups in the countryside of present-day northern China.

INVITED TALK

- 2025 “It Takes a Village: A Cases Study of Organized Pilgrimages in Rural North China in the Nineteenth Century.” History Department, Tung Hai University, Taiwan. January 8.
- 2021 “Urban Middle Class and Spirit Mediums: A Case Study in Tainan.” Center for the Study of Body and Civilization at National Chengchi University in Taipei. December 23.

- 2019 “Thunder Ritual, Inner Alchemy, and the Rise of Zhenwu Worship in Daoism” (雷法, 內丹與真武) Center for the Study of Chinese Religions, National Chengchi University, Taipei, December 23.
- 2019 “Building Temples and Making Pilgrimages: The Worship of Wei Huacun in Villages” (建廟與朝香: 魏華存信仰在北方). Department of Religion, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taipei, December 17.
- 2019 “Religion and Social Capital: The Ritual of ‘Sending Off the Celestial Master’ in Tainan, Taiwan.” (宗教與社會資本: 臺南市的送天師). Center for Chinese Studies, Taipei. November 7.
- 2019 “Body, Life and Cosmos: Health Caring in Daoist Ritual.” Summer Institute for Chinese Studies, University of Pittsburg. May 29.
- 2016 “The Worship of Goddess Wei Huacun in Village Religion in Northwest of Henan during the Ming-Qing period” (明清时期豫西北民间村庙所见魏华存信仰). Shanghai Normal University (上海上海師範大學), December 19. ([Link](#))
- 2016 “State of Field: Chinese Popular Religion in English 中国民间信仰研究英文著述回顾” Lecture Series of Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University 北京大学中文系名家学术系列讲座, June 4.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Quanzhen Clergy and Village Religion in The Southern Mount Taihang Region as Seen on Temple Steles.” Advancing Daoism: Epigraphic and Archeological Materials as Sources for Daoist Lived Religion, Phenix, AZ, Dec. 6-7.
- 2024 “Traditionalization in Village Religion in China in Late Imperial and Present Times.” New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS), Buffalo, NY, Sep. 27-29.
- 2023 “Chanting Their Way to Awakening.” Annual Meeting of Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA. March 16-19.
- 2022 “Seekers and Seers: Lay Buddhists and Buddhist Revival in Rural China.” Annual Meeting of Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies (MARAAS), Philadelphia, PA. October 1-2.
- 2018 “The Worship of Lady Wei Huacun.” Workshop on “Advancing Daoism: Epigraphic and Archeological Materials as Sources for Daoist Lived Religion.” Hanover, VT, Nov 14-15.
- 2018 “Zhenwu yu Fuluan 真武與扶鸞” (The Worship of Zhenwu and ‘Auto-writing’). Fuluan wenhua he minzhong zongjiao huiyi (Conference on the culture of Auto-writing and popular religion), Foguan University, Taiwan, May 28-30.
- 2018 “Religion, Identity, and Civil Society: Neighborhood Temple Processions in City of Tainan.” Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies, Washington DC, March 22-25.
- 2017 “The Cult of Wei Huacun during the Song-Yuan Dynasties (11th-13th Century).” Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies, Toronto, March 16-19.
- 2016 “The Worship of Goddess Wei Huacun in Village Religion in Northwest of Henan during the Ming-Qing period” (Ming-Qing shiqi Yu xibei minjian cunmiao de Wei Huacun Xinyang 明清時期豫西北的民间村廟的魏华存信仰 Renmin University (China)-Rutgers University (USA) Joint Inaugural International Forum on the Frontiers of Daoist Cultural Studies, Mt. Tianyue Mufu, Hunan province, China, July 28-31, 2016.
- 2016 “Religion and Identity of Taiwan.” The 11th European Social Science History Conference, Valencia, Spain, 30 March - 2 April 2016.
- 2015 “Chanting All the Way to the Pure Land: Buddhism in Practice in Rural North China.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, March 26-29, Chicago.
- 2015 “Revival of Religion in North Rural China.” Conference on “Studying Rural Chinese Society in the 21st Century: Emerging Themes and New Challenges.” Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University, March 9-11, Jerusalem, Israel.

- 2014 “The Precious Volumes of Zhenwu and the Worship of Zhenwu.” International Conference on Scripture, Ritual, and Popular Religion (Jingdian, yishi, yu minjian zongjiao guoji xueshu yantaohui), Oct. 25-26, Shanghai, China.
- 2014 “Our Lady on the Mountain: a Case Study of the Revival of Communal Religion in Rural Northern China” European Social Science History Conference, April 23-5, Vienna, Austria.
- 2013 “Religious Revivalism in North China.” Symposium of Religion and Society in North China, May 2-4, University of Rutgers, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- 2011 Panelist at “Belvederes, Bureaucrats, and Believers: Daoism, Temple Networks, and Local Society in Later China”, Chinese Religion Group, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19-22, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 “The Dynamic between Liturgical Innovation and Pantheon Growth in Daoism of the Song-Yuan Period: A Case of Zhenwu (Perfected Warrior).” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Oct. 30- Nov. 1, Atlanta, GA.
- 2010 “How was the Perfected Warrior Won?” Annual Meeting of Association of Asian Studies, March 25-28, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2009 “The Perfected Warrior and the Military during Song Times.” Annual Meeting of Association of Asian Studies, March 26-29, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 “Social and Ethical Dimension of Female Practice.” Conference on Female Meditation Techniques in Late Imperial and Modern China, November 8-9, Los Angeles, CA (by invitation).
- 2008 “Daoist Transcendent and Popular Goddess: The Worship of Wei Huacun in North China.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 1-4, Chicago, IL.
- 2007 “Inner Alchemy, Thunder Ritual, and the Zhenwu Cult.” Daoism in Action: International Conference on Daoist Studies, Hong Kong, Nov. 21-25.
- 2006 “Conflicted Interests at Sacred Space in Contemporary China: Mt. Wudang as a Case Study.” Association of Asian Studies, San Francisco, April 6-9.
- 2005 “Transformation, Continuity and the Symbolism of Water in a Chinese Festival Celebration.” Fourth Conference of International Water History Association, Paris, France, Dec. 1-4.
- 2005 “The Divine Empyrean Palace Temple Network and the Court of Song Huizong (r. 1101-1125 CE).” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19-22, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2005 “The Life Experiences of Daoist Priestesses during the Thirteenth Century.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, March 31-April 3, Chicago, IL.
- 2004 “Mt. Wudang as a Case Study for Historical Memory.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nov. 20-23, San Antonio, TX.
- 2004 “Zhenwu in Public Ritual.” Daoism and the Contemporary World Conference, June 6-10, Chengdu, Sichuan, China.
- 2004 “Ritual Theater in a Daoist Framework in 1980’s Rural China.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, March 4-7, San Diego, CA.
- 2003 “The Xuanwu in Ancient Chinese Cosmology.” Southeastern Early China Roundtable (SEECR), October 31 – November 2, Berea College, Berea, KY.
- 2003 “The Perfection of Daoist Priestesses in the Song-Yuan Era.” Daoism and Contemporary World: An International Conference on Daoist Studies, June 5-7, Boston University, MA.
- 2003 “Religion and Politics in the Court of Genghis Khan at the Turn of the Twelfth Century” Annual Meeting of the Mongolia Society, March 27-30, New York, NY.
- 2002 “The Impact of Daoist Liturgy on the Pantheon of Chinese Popular Religion” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 23-26, Toronto, ON, Canada.

- 2002 “Two Precious Volumes of Zhenwu.” Religious Thought and Lived Religion in China: A Conference in Honour of Professor Daniel L. Overmyer on His Retirement, Sep. 14-15, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- 2002 “Localizing State Religion: A Case Study of the Zhenwu Cult in Foshan, Guangdong.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, April 4-7, Washington D.C.
- 2001 “Internal Alchemy, Thunder Ritual, and the Zhenwu cult: A Case Study of the *Jinque xiansheng jiashu biwen*.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November, Denver, CO.
- 2001 “Woman Pilgrims Seen through Vernacular Writings in Seventeenth-century China” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November, Denver, CO, USA.
- 2001 “An Aspect of Religious Life in Urban Taiwan.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, March 22-25, Chicago, IL, USA.
- 2000 “Daoist Examinations and Daoist School-system during the Northern Song Dynasty.” ASPAC Conference, June, Eugene, OR.
- 1998 “Ethnographical note of an Urban Cult Group (Dushi shentan minzuzhi)” Interdisciplinary Symposium of Taiwanese Popular Religion, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan/ ROC

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- 2026 Discussant at the panel “Living Gods, Moving Worlds: Ritual Agents and Vernacular Religion in Transregional Asia” at the Association for Asian Studies 2026 annual conference, March 12-15, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- 2018 Symposium organizer: “Text, Context, and Act: Chinese popular religion in practice.” University of Rochester, Sept. 29-Oct. 1.
- 2015 Panel organizer: “Practitioners, Discourers, and Reformers: The Laity in Chinese Buddhism from Medieval to Contemporary Times.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, March 26-29, Chicago.
- 2014 Discussant at “Rutgers Daoist Studies Symposium: Daoism and Local Society in Late Imperial and Modern China.” Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Nov. 15-16.
- 2013 Co-organizer of an international symposium on “Religion and Society in North China.” Rutgers University, New Brunswick, May 6-7.
- 2012 Organizer of an international meeting for planning a conference on “Religion and Society in North China.” Qingdao, China, June.
- 2010 Co-organizer of an international symposium on “Divinity and Society: the Cult of Zhenwu in Imperial and Modern China.” Rutgers University, New Brunswick, April 2-3
- 2009 Co-organizer of the 5th International Daoist Conference, Wudangshan, Hubei, China, 18-22 June.
- 2007 Co-organizer of “Temple in Rural China” workshop, Princeton University, April 30.
- 2005 Panel organizer: “The Daoist Priesthood and Secular Society in Traditional and Modern China.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, March 31-April 3, Chicago.
- 2004 Panel organizer: “Singing, Fighting, and Recounting: transmission Interaction of Religious Traditions with Popular Cultural Forms in China.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, March 4-7, San Diego, CA.
- 2002 Panel organizer: “Local Cults and Local Practices: Religion and Identity in China from Song to Modern Times” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, April 4-7, Washington D.C.
- 1999 Panel organizer: “Bridging Humanity and Social Science on Asia: Beyond Economic Crisis and Political Trauma,” at Re-evaluating Asia: New Research Direction Conference, UBC.

COURSES TAUGHT

Becoming Gods: Daoist Philosophy and Daoist Religion (since 2025)
 Buddhism (since 2022, University of Rochester)
 Chinese Religions (since 2014, University of Rochester)
 Religion and Chinese Society (since 2015, University of Rochester)
 New Religious Movements, East and West (since 2014-2024, University of Rochester)
 Death, Dying, and Beyond (Fall 2014-2016, University of Rochester)
 The Tao: From the Daodejing to the Star Wars (Spring 2017, University of Rochester)
 Religions of Japan (Fall 2014, University of Rochester)
 Introduction to World Religions (2005 – 2012, Rutgers University)
 Eastern Religions (2005 – 2012, Rutgers University)
 Introduction to Religion and Contemporary Culture (2010-present, Rutgers University)
 Religion and Violence (2011 Fall, Rutgers University)
 Purgatory (2010, Rutgers University)
 Heaven and Hell (2008, Rutgers University)
 Myth and Symbol (2007, Rutgers University)
 Exorcism: East and West (2006, Rutgers University)
 Introduction to Buddhism (2003, Washington University)
 Chinese Popular Religion (senior seminar, 2003, Washington University)
 The Foundation and Development of Chinese Thought (2002, UBC)
 Daoist Religion and Its Philosophical Background (2001-2002, UBC)

ACADEMIC SERVICES

2023-present	Advisory board member of <i>Journal of Chinese Religions</i> (published by Johns Hopkins UP)
2023	Referee for <i>Asia Major</i>
2020	Referee for <i>Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies</i>
2019	Referee for <i>Journal for Chinese Religious Studies</i>
2019	Referee for <i>Fu Jen Religious Studies</i>
2019	Referee for <i>T'oung Pao</i>
2018	Referee for <i>Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore</i>
2015 – 2018	Dept. representative at Faculty Council, College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering
2007 – 2013	Steering committee member of Chinese Religion Group at American Academy of Religion
2007 – 2013	Steering committee member of Daoist Studies Group at American Academy of Religion
2007 – 2010	Board member of Society for the Study of Chinese Religions
2005	Referee for <i>Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore</i>
2005	Referee for the Three Pines Press
2004	Grant proposal reviewer for University of Missouri Research Board

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| 1999 | Representative of Graduate Student Society at the Killam Teaching Prize Adjudication Committee, Faculty of Arts, University of British Columbia. |
| 1999 | Representative of graduate students at President's Advisory Committee for the Selection of a New Dean for the Faculty of Arts, University of British Columbia. |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Academy of Religion
Association of Asian Studies
Society for the Study of Chinese Religions

CITIZENSHIP:

Citizen of the US (passport)
Citizen of Republic of China / Taiwan (passport)